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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 243

JULY, 1963

SEASONAL JOB EXPANSIONS BOOST EMPLOYMENT TOTALS

Seasonal employment expansion in Montana's diverse labor markets made its first real showing during June. The force of the normal seasonal upswing was tempered somewhat during much of April and May by bad weather. Work on many outdoor projects was also interrupted intermittently during June. Labor market activity, however, began to pick up steam at mid-June and generally improved economic conditions became evident in most areas of the state.

6,400 More Employed

Employment estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that 177,800 wage earners were on payrolls of industry and commerce at mid-June. This was a gain of 6,400 over May employment.

Seasonal Gain of 16,300

From a seasonal view point, the June employment figure tops the mid-winter low of last February's employment by 16,300. It does, however, fall 4,700 short of the average employment advance between these two periods of the previous 3 years.

Government and Service Industries Head June Gains

The Seasonal employment expansion was led by gains of 1,600 each in government units and the service industries. The employment advance in government was all at the federal level as the forest service, national parks, and other government facilities recalled

SUMMER JOBSEEKERS INCREASE LABOR SUPPLY

A record number of 6,563 jobseekers filed new applications for employment at the 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service during June. This brought the total number of registered unemployed workers to 11,545. Most of the new work applications came from high school and college students anxious for summer work. Transient labor, although less than last year, was concentrated in the major construction and agricultural areas and helped to boost the jobseeker count. Completion of construction activity at missile sites idled hundreds of construction workers, many of them from out of state. Some have decided to remain in Montana, adding to the unemployment problem.

summer work crews. Summer employment expansion in the service industries was centered chiefly in hotels, resort areas, and other vacation oriented outlets. Construction employment was a close second as June payrolls rose by 1,400 to a total of 13,500. Employment in trade industries was up by 1,000 with retail units adding 800 workers and wholesale establishments another 200. Other employment gains during June were manufacturing, up 400; transportation, utilities and communications, up 300; and finance, insurance, and real estate, up 100. Mining was the only major industry group which failed to show improvement during June. Statewide mining payrolls which include metal mining, coal mining, quarrying, and natural gas and petroleum production stayed with the May total of 7,800.

but increased activity in quarrying and non-metallic operations brought a gain of 100 workers. Over-the-year employment gains of 200 in finance, insurance and real estate and 100 in government were also recorded. These advances, however, were not strong enough to offset declines in five other major industry groups. As a result employment was down 1,600 from June 1962. The sharpest declines were in transportation, communications and utilities with a loss of 900, and contract construction which dropped 700.

Farm Labor Demand Down

Despite an expected high level of production of most farm crops, farm hiring was down 29% from last year. A record wheat harvest and the largest sugar beet crop in 20 years is anticipated. Loss of most of the sweet cherry crop will eliminate the need for hundreds of pickers and plant workers this year. The demand for agricultural workers will increase during the next three months for haying and harvest activities. The volume of demand, however, will not be sufficient to erase the earlier employment losses.

Three Industries Exceed Last Year

Three industries showed higher employment this year than last. Mining payrolls were 500 heavier this year with 400 of the gain in natural gas and petroleum production. Metal mining payrolls remained the same as last year

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) May 1963	2) Apr 1963	May 1962	May 1963	Apr 1963	May 1962	May 1963	Apr 1963	May 1962	May 1963	Apr 1963	May 1962	May 1963	Apr 1963	May 1962
3) All Manufacturing	6.8	5.6	6.1	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.1	5.0	4.3	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.3	2.0	1.2
Durable Goods	8.2	6.2	7.3	6.2	5.0	5.0	4.6	5.7	4.4	2.7	2.2	2.3	1.3	2.2	.8
Primary Metal	3.9	3.1	5.7	1.3	.7	3.7	2.4	3.3	4.8	.8	.7	1.9	1.4	.4	.3
3) Nondurable Goods	3.7	4.4	3.7	2.8	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.9	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.2
All Mining	7.8	9.9	7.9	5.8	7.2	4.3	9.7	7.6	5.6	4.9	4.3	2.7	1.2	1.4	.9
Metal Mining	4.5	6.8	6.8	1.8	2.4	2.0	8.3	6.0	4.4	3.8	3.4	2.7	.4	.3	.1

1) Preliminary rates used on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary June 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(352 jobseekers, 181 new, 226 men, 126 women). June hiring trends better than May but down substantially from 1962 chiefly as result of no new hiring at the smelter. Nearly half of June hires were for forest service projects under the Public Works program. Main street hiring trends continue on the slow side. No summer hiring this year for railroad track and maintenance work.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,512 jobseekers, 1,316 new, 1,617 men, 895 women). June labor market trends most active in the construction, and trade and service industries. Most skilled construction men employed on local building and highway projects. Over 100 more working on construction in Yellowstone Park. Yellowtail Dam work force stays at 800 after some weather-caused work stoppages. Stepped-up oil drilling noted in Roundup area. Transfer of oil company and government offices from Billings resulted in 50 layoffs.

BOZEMAN—Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(343 jobseekers, 430 new, 212 men, 131 women). Over \$12 million in variety of building and highway projects now on good schedule after weather-caused slowdowns during June. Work on \$3 million college dormitory began June 19. Sawmills and pole plants working full crews but logging activities slowed by muddy roads during most of the month. Good trends prevail in all manufacturing industries.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,145 jobseekers, 608 new, 777 men, 368 women). Hiring at metal mines stopped with some temporary layoffs expected as ore concentrating gradually shifts from Anaconda to Butte. Highway and industrial construction still at good volume but some layoffs expected as projects near completion. Jobseeker files increased as students, teachers, and family members registered for summer employment.

CUT BANK—(267 jobseekers, 57 new, 177 men, 90 women). Labor market activity centered chiefly in the construction field during June. No hiring yet on $\frac{1}{2}$ million Public Works project at Browning. Several oil rigs shut down during the month. Farm crop prospects improved with recent rainfall.

DILLON—(105 jobseekers, 83 new, 57 men, 48 women). Increased construction activity highlighted the June labor market as new contracts let for

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment	June 1963	May 1963	June 1962	June Avg. 1954-63
Industrial Employment	177,800	171,400	179,400	173,000
New Job Applicants	6,563	4,519	6,533	5,363
Job Applicants, End of Month	11,545	10,902	11,313	9,970
Insured Unemployment Week of	July 5 1963	June 1 1963	July 6 1962	Avg. 1st July Wk. 1959-63
New and Renewal Claims	569	404	589	618
Unemployed Weeks Filed	2,604	3,194	2,354	3,167
Total Unemployed Claims	3,173	3,598	2,943	3,785

dam and highway projects. Work on several new commercial buildings also started. New drive-in bank scheduled to open in August. Trade and service volume at good seasonal levels. Farm hiring checked by wet weather and hail damage.

GLASGOW—Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(207 jobseekers, 106 new, 100 men, 107 women). Wet weather throughout most of June interfered with all outside work and kept hiring at a minimum. Slight improvement in main street hiring but labor demand short of past few years. Bids for construction of 200 air base housing units opened June 7, but no official word on project start.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(186 jobseekers, 109 new, 99 men, 87 women). Most construction and farm work came to a standstill during much of June because of heavy rains. About 130 employed on building projects. Oil field activity slowed down as several firms moved from the area. Farm work reduced appreciably with exception of sugar beet fields where 350 are employed.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,089 jobseekers, 1,129 new, 1,341 men, 748 women). New job applications equalled last year but unemployment claims nearly double last year's total. Many workers idled by phasing out of missile site projects remaining in area, making for keen competition among jobseekers. Trade and service industries provided most job orders during June. Farm hiring trends remain fairly active.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(270 jobseekers, 128 new, 172 men, 98 women). Jobseeker count up during June with heavy registration of younger workers. Many will find work in hay fields and raspberry harvest during July. Only moderate labor demand for construction and service industry workers. Major building project is \$300,000 grade school. Farm labor demand mainly for hay hands and irrigators.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(160 jobseekers, 90 new, 96 men, 64 women).

Hiring in industry and farm down from last year. Fewer construction projects and no railroad hiring this year keeps labor demand in main street establishments below the past 2 years. Farm jobs also scarcer than year ago.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(636 jobseekers, 342 new, 421 men, 215 women). Labor supply swelled by registration of high school and college students for summer work. Most will find a tough labor market. June labor demand was below normal in all industries except lumbering and logging in outlying areas. Settlement of the teamster's labor dispute on June 28 should result in a better picture during July.

KALISPELL—Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(759 jobseekers, 459 new, 565 men, 194 women). Labor market activity lags behind last year with declining construction and a 20% drop in tourist traffic. Hiring under the Public Works program terminated as funds expended. Loss of most of the sweet cherry crop will cost 250 jobs. Lumber industry strike in Libby area clamps down on hiring in other industries.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(217 jobseekers, 134 new, 138 men, 79 women). Industry hiring down sharply from last year with completion of construction work on missile program. Over 150 employed on commercial building and highway projects. Trade and service volume at fairly good seasonal levels. Farm labor demand down temporarily but upsurge expected next 3 months.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(205 jobseekers, 72 new, 104 men, 101 women). Labor market trends not as active as last year. Construction employment down by 20%. A 10% drop in tourist traffic also noted. Bypass of city by interstate highway adversely affecting some trade and service establishments. Surplus of workers current in all service industry classifications. Sawmills keeping busy but logs scarce as wet weather hampers woods work. Farm labor demand not too brisk.

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.7
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	165.5	170.9	179.4	178.5	177.9	175.8	174.2	172.3	169.6	170.0
1963	161.9	161.5	162.7	167.9	171.4	177.8*							

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary June 1

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(176 jobseekers, 168 new, 87 men, 89 women). Most outdoor hiring held to a minimum during June by heavy rains. Construction not too active with only slow progress on existing projects. Main street business unusually slow with some layoffs of sales people.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,108 jobseekers, 672 new, 763 men, 345 women). Labor market quite active despite strikes and threats of more disputes. Manufacturing and trade industries show gains over last year. Contract construction unchanged. Strong trends hold in logging with almost continuous demand for fallers, skidders, etc.

POLSON—(276 jobseekers, 120 new, 196 men, 80 women). Industry and farm hiring below last year as labor demand reduced by wet weather. Farm labor demand practically nil. Loss of sweet cherry crop eliminates jobs for 300. Construction slow but \$200,000 in Public Works slated to begin in July. Completion of one project idled 20.

SHELBY—(188 jobseekers, 94 new, 118 men, 70 women). Job placements down 60% from last year. Construction, trade and service industries all lag behind normal seasonal levels. Interstate highway and overpass construction drags with few job opportunities. Not much optimism on the farm front with some crops already burned out.

SIDNEY—(169 jobseekers, 138 new, 106 men, 63 women). Construction set a good pace despite some delays because of bad weather and material shortages. New projects include \$300,000 shopping center, 10 unit addition to motel, and grain storage building. Oil field activity shows good progress. Excellent outlook for farm crops.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(92 jobseekers, 64 new, 71 men, 21 women). Bulk of June hiring was for sawmill, woods and forest service workers. Construction slow at present but \$100,000 in Public Work projects to start during July. Main street hiring follows seasonal lines. Farm hiring limited.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(83 jobseekers, 63 new, 55 men, 28 women). Employment expansion centered in construction and main street establishments during June. Work began on a \$400,000 retirement home at Plentywood. Cafes, drive-ins, service stations, and implement firms all added workers to their June payrolls. Shortages of experienced cooks and farm machinery mechanics developed.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 902 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,297 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	June 1963 (2)	May 1963 (3)	June 1962	May '63 to June '63	June '62 to June '63
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	177,800	171,400	179,400	6,400	-1,600
Manufacturing	22,100	21,700	22,500	400	-400
Durable goods	14,900	14,600	15,100	300	-200
Lumber and timber products	8,700	8,200	8,600	500	100
Primary metals	3,300	3,300	3,700	00	-400
Other (4)	2,900	3,100	2,800	-200	100
Nondurable goods	7,200	7,100	7,400	100	-200
Food and kindred products	3,900	3,800	4,000	100	-100
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Other (5)	600	600	700	00	-100
Mining	7,800	7,800	7,300	00	500
Metal mining	4,100	4,100	4,100	00	00
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	800	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,800	2,800	2,400	00	400
Contract Construction	13,500	12,100	14,200	1,400	-700
Contractors, building construction	4,300	3,700	3,300	600	1,000
Contractors, other than building	5,300	4,500	5,900	800	-600
Contractors, special trade	3,900	3,900	5,000	00	-1,100
Transportation and utilities	18,000	17,700	18,900	300	-900
Interstate railroads	8,200	8,000	8,500	200	-300
Transportation except railroads	4,000	4,000	4,200	00	-200
Utilities including communication	5,800	5,700	6,200	100	-400
Trade	40,600	39,600	40,900	1,000	-300
Wholesale trade	8,300	8,100	8,200	200	100
Retail trade	32,300	31,500	32,700	800	-400
General merchandise and apparel	6,200	6,200	6,300	00	-100
Food stores	4,600	4,700	5,100	-100	-500
Eating and drinking establishments	8,700	8,000	8,700	700	00
Automotive and filling stations	6,400	6,300	6,400	100	00
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,400	6,300	6,200	100	200
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,000	6,900	6,800	100	200
Services and miscellaneous	25,400	23,800	25,500	1,600	-100
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,500	3,000	4,500	1,500	00
Personal services	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Other (6)	18,900	18,800	19,000	100	-100
Government	43,400	41,800	43,300	1,600	100
Federal	13,200	11,200	13,400	2,000	-200
State and local	30,200	30,600	29,900	-400	300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	24,200	24,000	24,600	200	-400
Manufacturing	4,400	4,600	4,000	-200	400
Contract construction	2,500	2,400	3,500	100	-1,000
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	-100
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,000	5,800	5,700	200	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,200	1,300	1,200	-100	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,900	3,700	3,900	200	00
Government	4,100	4,100	4,100	00	00
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	23,100	22,500	23,200	600	-100
Manufacturing	2,500	2,400	2,500	100	00
Contract construction	1,500	1,300	1,500	200	00
Transportation and utilities	2,500	2,500	2,700	00	-200
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,200	7,100	7,300	100	-100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,300	4,200	4,200	100	100
Government	3,800	3,700	3,700	100	100

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JUNE 1963 AND JUNE 1962

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	June 1963		June 1962		June 1963		June 1962		June 1963				June 1962				Wk 7-5	
	Tot.		Tot.		Tot.		Tot.		Ind.		Ag.		Ind.		Ag.		1963	
	Vet.		Vet.		Vet.		Vet.		Vet.		Vet.		Vet.		Vet.		1962	
Anaconda.....	181	6	173	8	352	24	255	15	81	13	94	20	150	9	159	24	115	122
Billings.....	1,316	212	1,083	164	2,512	403	2,510	367	514	801	1,315	205	538	1,688	2,224	254	569	645
Bozeman.....	430	56	348	56	343	44	244	49	236	72	308	45	239	78	315	60	50	46
Butte.....	608	88	440	55	1,145	174	1,203	171	100	8	108	41	170	15	185	74	319	417
Cut Bank.....	57	15	92	18	267	69	168	28	49	196	245	34	66	230	296	41	65	36
Dillon.....	83	29	119	35	105	18	112	31	33	84	117	43	72	94	166	66	40	29
Glasgow.....	106	4	188	29	207	6	364	36	90	46	136	20	116	146	262	23	67	91
Glendive.....	109	8	102	10	186	12	227	16	49	1,049	1,098	9	92	1,315	1,407	25	25	22
Great Falls.....	1,129	134	1,339	123	2,089	362	1,910	220	266	118	384	100	512	182	674	190	683	363
Hamilton.....	128	12	130	15	270	28	231	23	91	119	210	29	60	137	197	17	53	55
Havre.....	90	6	211	7	160	14	158	22	57	59	116	25	101	547	648	74	73	58
Helena.....	342	28	343	30	636	77	674	62	220	98	318	78	245	82	327	74	180	131
Kalispell.....	459	72	458	45	759	145	712	135	208	18	226	51	209	21	230	56	279	240
Lewistown.....	134	17	174	28	217	34	161	22	57	70	127	46	169	76	245	72	83	76
Livingston.....	72	4	93	7	205	18	198	22	113	40	153	37	128	44	172	33	48	28
Miles City.....	168	17	141	14	176	21	100	8	74	723	797	19	91	865	956	40	61	36
Missoula.....	672	90	615	94	1,108	168	1,156	205	258	179	437	98	244	332	576	80	256	287
Polson.....	120	15	153	8	276	41	249	28	32	20	52	11	76	155	231	13	58	60
Shelby.....	94	9	122	35	188	20	286	63	43	41	84	19	107	192	299	70	39	42
Sidney.....	138	6	50	---	169	8	77	4	42	3,008	3,050	9	41	3,303	3,344	17	31	27
Thomp. Falls.....	64	5	54	11	92	9	131	30	67	2	69	14	94	5	99	22	34	55
Wolf Point.....	63	7	107	11	83	18	187	39	36	20	58	8	31	31	62	16	45	77
TOTALS.....	6,563	840	6,533	801	11,545	1,713	11,313	1,596	2,716	6,784	9,500	961	3,551	9,523	13,074	1,341	3,173	2,943

*Includes 214 claims of the Fed. UC Program 170 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	June (1) 1963	May (2) 1963	June 1962	June (1) 1963	May (2) 1963	June 1962	June (1) 1963	May (2) 1963	June 1962
All Manufacturing.....	\$113.69	\$113.05	\$106.24	42.9	42.5	41.5	2.65	2.66	2.56
Durable Goods.....	113.85	113.00	97.46	44.3	43.8	39.3	2.57	2.58	2.48
Primary Metals.....	106.40	103.48	103.74	41.4	39.8	39.9	2.57	2.60	2.60
Nondurable Goods.....	113.26	112.50	106.92	39.6	39.2	38.6	2.86	2.87	2.77
Food and Kindred Products.....	92.90	92.90	88.98	39.7	39.2	39.2	2.34	2.37	2.27
All Mining.....	113.63	113.90	109.34	42.4	42.5	40.8	2.68	2.68	2.68
Metal Mining.....	107.53	107.53	107.71	39.1	39.1	39.6	2.75	2.75	2.72
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.).....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads).....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications.....	101.13	105.06	98.89	38.6	40.1	39.4	2.62	2.62	2.51

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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